

NATIVE VOICE

Friday, June 8, 2007



Plans for elk find few fans

Population a problem

By **ANNIE GREENBERG**
Native Voice

ESTES PARK – It is almost mating season, but a controversial elk depopulation proposal has critics as ornery as animals in heat.

While officials at Rocky Mountain National Park consider the elk's fall-time public displays of affection a tourist attraction, they are hoping to reverse the end results by hiring sharpshooters to cut down the 3,000-strong herd by half.

Kyle Patterson, a spokeswoman for the park, explained the depopulation is necessary to protect important parts of the reserve's ecosystem – especially willow and aspen trees, which other critters use as natural habitats and the over-grazing elk tend to nibble.

Reducing the elk population is not the issue. It is the park's decision to contract sharpshooters – a plan slated to cost between \$16 million and

> See **ELK** on Page 9

A small herd of elk stopped traffic as it crossed a road Tuesday near downtown Estes Park. The elk population has grown to more than 3,000.

RUSSEL A. DANIELS | Native Voice

More than 150 attend NAJA opening event

By **ADELLE WATTS**
Native Voice

The sound of drumbeats welcomed a packed house in Denver Thursday night.

More than 150 people made the trek to Denver to attend NAJA 2007, We Talk, You Listen: A Tribute to Vine Deloria Jr.

"A lot more local community people came in than I thought," said Kim Baca, interim executive director of NAJA.

Twenty-five people danced the

friendship dance around a fountain of chocolate that was the centerpiece of the room.

Barbara Deloria, Deloria's widow, was scheduled to attend the convention but could not due to illness.

Southern Ute tribal chairman Clemmet J. Frost, Ute Mountain Ute Vice Chairperson Betty Howe, as well as Jicarilla Apache Nation President Levi Pesata and Ernest House Jr., Ute Executive Secretary of Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs and Colorado State Senator Suzanne Williams were present.



NEW DIRECTOR JEFF HARJO

"He cares about the direction of his nation and the future of Native Americans."

MIKE KELLOGG, President of NAJA Board of Directors, about Harjo. > **Story, Page 5**

Stereotypes in comic book concern some consumers

By **ISHMAEL ALI ELIAS**
Native Voice

Dashiell Bad Horse isn't your ordinary hero.

For starters, he's Native American and the lead character of a new comic book set on the fictional Prairie Rose Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

"Scalped," written by Kansas-based Jason Aaron, a non-Native, hit comic book shelves in January. The premiere issue sold about 13,000 copies, according to Dia-

mond Comic Distributors, Inc. Since then sales have declined to about 10,000 copies per issue.

Still, the new comic has proven popular, said William Binderup, owner of Elite Comics in Overland Park, Kan., due to its bold storyline and gritty artwork from Yugoslavian-born R.M. Guera.

"I think that it's a setting that's obviously underused in comics and just in entertainment in general," said Aaron, 34, in an inter-

> See **SCALPED** on Page 11

2.6million
Denver's metro area
population in 2005.

1.2percent
Denver's Native American
and Alaska Native population,
about 6,627 people.

5,280feet
Denver's elevation (Exactly 1 mile)

Tipsfor
visitors

Beer, soda, chips, oh my. The air is thinner, with less oxygen, than at sea level. Until your body adjusts, go easy on physical activity; drink more water than usual; minimize your intake of alcohol, caffeine and salty foods; and eat high-carbohydrate foods, such as grains, fruits and vegetables.

We're closer to the sun. Use sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat with a brim.

Dress in layers. Locals say, "If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes."

Watch your butts. State law says anyone caught throwing a lit cigarette from a moving vehicle in a wilderness area faces a fine of up to \$1,000 and could spend a year in jail. Triple civil damages can be charged for causing a wildfire.

Sneeze much? The drier climate, higher altitude and different outdoor pollens can trigger allergic reactions. If you have allergies, always be prepared for emergencies. Always carry antihistamines or other allergy medications with you.

(303)
(720)

Metro Denver has two area codes that must be dialed (even for local calls).

STUDENT STAFF

RUSSEL A. DANIELS, Navajo and Ho-Chunk, is a photojournalism with student at the University of Montana and is scheduled to graduate in spring 2009.

Daniels' journalistic interests lie in Native issues and he says it's important to diversify U.S. newsrooms with more Native journalists. Daniels is a 2005 and 2006 graduate of the American Indian Journalism Institute, and he also participated as a staff photographer for the Native Voice during the 2005 NAJA convention.

In his spare time, Daniels has been working on an ongoing photographic documentary project, "A Slice of the Pie," which explores everyday and overlooked Americana.

PATRICK WILLINK, Diné, graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Native American Studies from the University of New Mexico in 2006. He is currently a graduate student at UNM.

Willink is a former president of Kiva Club, a Native American student organization, and helped produce the Native American Studies student newspaper Dawn of Nations Today. Willink also worked as a staff designer for Native Voice Online during the 2006 NAJA convention.

His interests include graphic design and production layout for publications and the Web, digital video production, digital photography and other artistic design pursuits.

ISHMAEL ALI ELIAS, Seminole and Cherokee, recently graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in journalism from Ohio State University. Elias also has a degree in Spanish studies from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and is a 2006 graduate of the American Indian Journalism Institute.

Originally from the Midwest, Elias considers himself a "Brooklynite" at heart. He can speak conversational Japanese and Spanish and his interests include graphic design, photography, music (jazz, downtempo, and punk rock) and martial arts. He aspires to do film and documentary work.



PATRICK WILLINK |
Native Voice

ADAM SINGS IN THE TIMBER, Apsáalooké (Crow), is a senior at the University of Montana studying journalism with a photo option.

Sings In The Timber is photo editor and a staff photographer for www.reznetnews.org, an online Native student publication. He is a graduate of the 2005 American Indian Journalism Institute, a 2006 Chips Quinn Scholar and president of UM NAJA, the first student chapter of NAJA.

In addition to photography, Sings In The Timber enjoys playing blues/jazz guitar, and is a flautist and a billiards instructor at UM.

ANNIE GREENBERG, Eskimo, will begin studying journalism at the University of Missouri in the fall.

Last June, Greenberg joined the Navajo Times in Window Rock, Ariz., as an intern from NAJA. At the end of the summer, the paper hired her as a full-time news reporter when she was just 17. Greenberg covered issues ranging from tribal politics to junior high football. In May, the Arizona Press Club awarded her third place in sustained coverage by a small newspaper for her series on domestic violence on the Navajo Nation.

Originally from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Greenberg, now 18, is pretty sure she is the only Jewish Eskimo in NAJA.

ALLIE HOSTLER, Hoopa, Yurok and Karuk, is a journalism student at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., with plans to graduate in 2008.

In addition to her studies, Hostler is a general assignments reporter for the tribal newspaper, The Hoopa People. She is also a 2005 graduate of the American Indian Journalism Institute.

She is the mother of 5-year-old twins and aspires to work as a West Coast reporter.



MARILYN NELSON, Navajo, received her Bachelor of Science in photojournalism from Northern Arizona University in December 2006.

Nelson is currently a freelance reporter/photographer for The Navajo Times and recently joined Indian Country Today as a freelance photographer. She plans to pursue a second B.S. in communications from NAU and dreams of starting her own newspaper company.

Nelson has three older sisters, one younger sister and one stepbrother.

TERRIA SMITH, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla, is a journalism student at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., and plans to graduate in 2008.

Smith is a 2006 graduate of the American Indian Journalism Institute and has been a NAJA member for the past three years. She also worked as a staff reporter for the Native Voice during the NAJA convention in 2005.

Smith is the mother of two daughters, ages 4 and 12, and enjoys attending her daughters' soccer games and gymnastic meets and traveling to San Francisco.

ADELLE WATTS, Blackfeet, is a senior at the University of Montana majoring in journalism with an option in photo and is interested in pursuing a career in newspaper design.

Watts is a graduate of the 2004 American Indian Journalism Institute. She is a founding member of the UM student chapter of NAJA and serves as secretary and treasurer.

In her spare time, Watts enjoys playing classic video games, including Super Mario Bros., Zelda and racing games.



NATIVE VOICE

Volume 10, Issue 1
Denver

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Tribal casinos look like best bet for growth in gaming

By ANNIE GREENBERG
Native Voice

Tribal casinos are giving Las Vegas a run for its money.

In 2006, tribal casinos across Indian Country brought in \$25.1 billion in revenue – an 11 percent increase from 2005 – according to a report released this week by the National Indian Gaming Commission.

In comparison, gaming revenue from Las Vegas casinos in 2006 totaled \$12.6 billion.

“The continued growth is eye-opening considering the tribal gaming industry is still relatively young,” said Phil Hogen, chairman of the NIGC, whose findings were based on reports from 387 tribal gaming operations in 28 states.

Colorado is home to two tribal casinos — the Ute Mountain Casino in Towaoc and the Sky Ute Casino in Ignacio. They fall under Region 3 of the NIGC, which includes 45 casinos from Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and southern Nevada.

Both casinos feature slot machines, bingo and several kinds of blackjack and poker.

According to Shawn Pensoneau, director of congressional and public affairs for NIGC, tribal gaming in Region 3 brought in \$2.9 billion last year. In 2005, with 48 casinos reporting revenue, the region brought in \$2.5 billion.

He said earnings at tribal gaming enterprises last year were historic because “they are above and beyond what people thought about in its infancy.”

These new numbers are encouraging to tribes trying to break into gaming.

Eddie Lockett, executive director of the Navajo Nation Gaming Regulatory Office, has worked with tribal casinos since the early 1990s. The Navajo Nation established a gaming enterprise last October, and hopes to break ground on its first casino this summer.

When he decided to enter the field of tribal gaming, Lockett said, several colleagues working in Las Vegas told him he was making a mistake.

“Indian gaming just wasn’t very lucrative at the time – but I saw that it was always growing,” Lockett said. “I can say with all certainty that no one ever imagined that it would become the billion-dollar industry that it is today.”

Congress passed legislation regulating Indian gaming in 1988, which established the NIGC to conduct yearly audits of the casinos and investigate complaints when necessary. The federal government has limited oversight of nontribal casinos.

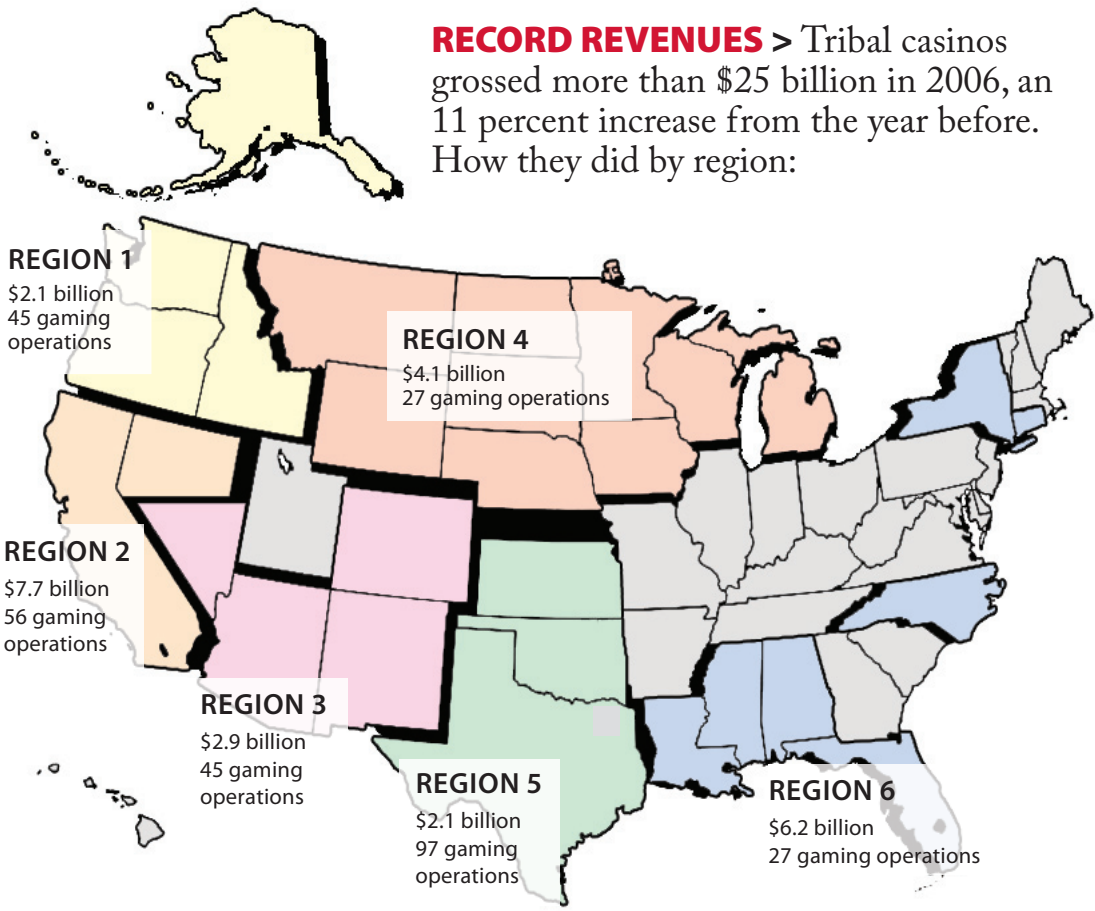
There are now 415 facilities across the country run by about 220 tribes.

The Seminole tribe opened the first high-stakes tribal casino in 1979; it currently operates two Hard Rock hotels and casinos and five other gaming facilities in Florida.

The tribe’s forays into gaming have been wildly successful.

In December the Seminole tribe bought Hard Rock International, Inc. for \$965 million, becoming the first tribe to purchase an international organization.

There are now 122 Hard Rock Cafes and eight hotels and casinos in 46 countries, including the Seminole Hard Rock Hotels and Casinos in Tampa and Hollywood, Fla., according to Hard Rock International, which is owned by Seminole Hard Rock Entertainment, Inc.



PATRICK WILLINK | Native Voice

Lockett said he believes tribal gaming’s success is due to heavy regulations.

“Nevada gaming and New Jersey gaming don’t even come close,” he said. “Indian gaming was highly scrutinized from the beginning because

no one thought it would be successful, that people in the Native American community didn’t have the necessary skills – but look what they have today.”

Lockett said the NIGC report was like a ray of light, and he hopes when

all the Navajo casinos are up and running the tribe will see revenue of around \$100 million annually.

Native Voice reporter Marilyn Nelson contributed to this report.



CBS salutes NAJA
for helping the world
see itself as it is, and
as it can be.



NAJA making move with new executive

HARJO AT HELM >
Oklahoma Univ.
to become newest
home for group

By **ALLIE HOSTLER**
Native Voice

The Native American Journalists Association is once again on the move, this time to the Sooner State and with a new executive director.

The organization, which started as the Native American Press Association, has called Boulder, Colo.; Scottsdale, Ariz. and Minneapolis home, among other U.S. cities.

Moving headquarters isn't the only major change NAJA faces.

Kim Baca, who has served as interim executive director for two years, is leaving the 23-year-old organization.

"I've enjoyed my time with NAJA," she said "It's time for me to go home."

Baca, Navajo and Santa Clara Pueblo, plans on getting a lot of rest and relaxation, but first she will help NAJA make a smooth office transition.

Already filling the job as the new executive director is Jeff Harjo, who was hired by the NAJA board in April. The 53 year old is a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and was a NAJA board member from 1995 to 2001.

Harjo left his job as the editor-in-chief of the Kickapoo Traveling Times in Oklahoma to work for NAJA.

After being spending two years at the Al Neuharth Media Center at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, the nonprofit is moving to offices at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

The group will take up residence with the university's journalism program.

The new office will provide OU students and faculty new resources to aid in increasing diversity in the media, said NAJA Board President Mike Kellogg, who is also the publisher of the Stillwater Daily NewsPress in Oklahoma.

He said the move fits with the groups's strategic plan, which was implemented in 2006. The plan is part of an effort to increase NAJA's national presence as an organization for Native American journalists, students and tribal governments encouraging free press.

NAJA leaders also hope to increase revenue, membership, staff and resources to better serve the group's mission.

Although three of seven board members live in Oklahoma, Kellogg said that had no bearing on the decision to move. Instead, the move will give NAJA more visibility, Harjo said, along with office space suited to meet growing needs.

"We're excited because it's really going to help us focus more on Native journalism students and give us a chance to realize the potential of Native students in the field of media," said Joe Foot, dean of the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass communication at OU.

Foot said OU has an entire infrastructure set up to serve Native students and it is one of the few Universities to offer a Native American studies program.

NAJA board student member Christina Good Voice, University of Oklahoma-Norman alum and Cherokee Phoenix reporter in Tahlequah, is excited about the move.

"This is the beginning of a new thing for NAJA. We've exploded in the past two years," said Good Voice, Muscogee (Creek).

PLANS TO EXPAND

Now an organization 550 members strong, NAJA is reaching for the stars by recruiting more heavily than ever. Part of NAJA's strategic plan is to start lifetime memberships.

For \$1,000, anyone can obtain an individual lifetime membership. Because of lifetime memberships, NAJA has been able to increase its endowment, which in December reached \$100,000, according to NAJA documents.

Over the next five years, the group plans to further increase revenue, improve relationships with donors, maintain a \$50,000 scholarship fund and expand staff and services to better serve Native American journalists, according to the plan developed in 2006.

The group also plans to provide sample legislation to tribal governments that wish to promote freedom of the press on tribal lands.

The six goals listed in the strategic plan are:

- Recruit Native people into journalism careers.
- Develop the skills of Native journalists.
- Provide a forum for Native journalists.
- Increase representation of Native journalists and Native voices in journalism.
- Promote the expansion and enhancement of Native media.
- Increase NAJA's capacity to achieve its mission.



RUSSEL A. DANIELS | Native Voice

Amber Windy Boy performs a northern-style Fancy Shawl Dance at the Native American Journalists Association opening ceremony on Thursday night.

FUN COLORADO FACTS

Denver lays claim to the invention of the cheeseburger, was trademarked in 1935 to Louis Ballast.

More than 8,000 years ago, Native Americans were thought to make their first trek between the foothills and the plains on paths that would someday become West Colfax Avenue. By the mid-1800s, Utes routinely used this route to bring trade goods to markets in Denver.

"Beulah Red" is the name of the red marble that gives the Colorado State Capital its distinctive splendor. Cutting, polishing, and installing the marble in the Capital took six years, from 1894 to 1900. All of the "Beulah Red" marble in the world went into the Capital. It cannot be replaced, at any price.



The Centennial State's fun facts:

- Square dancing is the state dance.
- Anasazi inhabited Mesa Verde in southwest Colorado in C.E. 1000-1300.
- Colorado stunned the world in 1972 when they turned down hosting the 1976 Olympics. In a landmark vote, more than 60 percent said they did not want the games, citing cost, pollution and an ensuing population boom that could result in the region.



WE'RE STORYTELLERS, TOO.

The Rocky Mountain News welcomes the Native American Journalists Association to Denver. We look forward to your celebration of storytelling and are proud to be printing your student and college papers for use at the convention.

Rocky Mountain News

Harjo returns to lead NAJA as new director

By **ALLIE HOSTLER**
Native Voice

Jeff Harjo is no stranger to a life in the media.

In his 53 years, Harjo has worked in radio, television and print journalism. Now he's taking on the lead role in the Native American Journalists Association.

"We interviewed five candidates for the position," said Mike Kellogg, president of NAJA's board of directors, of the two-year search for an executive director. "It was a clear choice because he displayed a lot of what we need."

In fact, Harjo once served as interim executive director for NAJA in 1996 and is currently one of 28 general council members governing the Semi-

nole Nation of Oklahoma, which boasts more than 14,000 members.

Harjo served on the National Congress of American Indians as alternate vice president for the eastern Oklahoma region from 2003 to 2005. He also served as gaming commissioner for the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma from 2004 to 2006. Harjo resigned as editor of the Kickapoo tribal newspaper, Kickapoo Traveling Times, in order to serve NAJA, but plans to keep the political post with the Seminoles.

"When I'm doing media I have my media hat on, and when I'm doing politics I have my politics hat on," he said. "I try to separate business from politics."

The past and present political involvement didn't shake Kellogg's con-

fidence in the new director.

"It shows that he cares about the direction of his nation and the future of Native Americans," Kellogg said. "It shows that he's not afraid to at least stand up for what he believes in. That's what NAJA needs."

Harjo caught the media bug in 1976 when he began spinning records as a part-time radio disc jockey in college at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in history from NSU, his media interest took him to Albuquerque to work as a TV engineer and later to attend broadcast licensing school in Denver.

"I'm excited about the opportunity and the challenge," Harjo said. "For me it's the right time in my life."



Jeff Harjo poses Monday in Denver. Harjo was named executive director of the Native American Journalists Association in April.

ADAM SINGS IN THE TIMBER | Native Voice

BOARD ELECTIONS

Three candidates have put in their names for as many open seats in the Native American Journalists Association Board of Directors 2007 election, held 5:30-8:30 p.m. today in the salon foyer on the main level of the Denver Marriott Tech Center.

Each board position carries a term of three years. Current NAJA members are eligible to vote.



CRISTINA L. AZOCAR, Upper Mataponi, 38, director of the Center for the Integration and Improvement of Journalism and an adjunct assistant professor of journalism at San Francisco State University. **Experience:** NAJA member since 1992 and a board member since 2004. **Goals:** Azocar wants to further NAJA's mission of raising the next generation

of storytellers. NAJA needs more of a formal mentoring program and the organization should be more inclusive overall, she said. She wants to see more students working with NAJA to help with recruitment and retention.



RHONDA LEVALDO, Acoma Pueblo of New Mexico, 32, journalism graduate student at the University of Kansas at Lawrence and staff member at Haskell Indian Nations University library. **Experience:** NAJA member since 2005. **Goals:** As

a student, LeValdo said she's in a unique position to bridge the gap between professionals and students. She plans to increase membership by recruiting at tribal colleges specifically.



RONNIE L. WASHINES, Yakama Nation, 56, program administrator for Yakama Nation Multi-Media Services and editor at the Yakama Nation Review. **Experience:** NAJA member since 1985 and current board member. **Goals:** Recruiting new members, establishing and maintaining

sound accounting policies, strengthening relationships with funding sources and securing scholarship funding are major goals, Washines said.

Compiled by Ishmael Ali Elias, Native Voice

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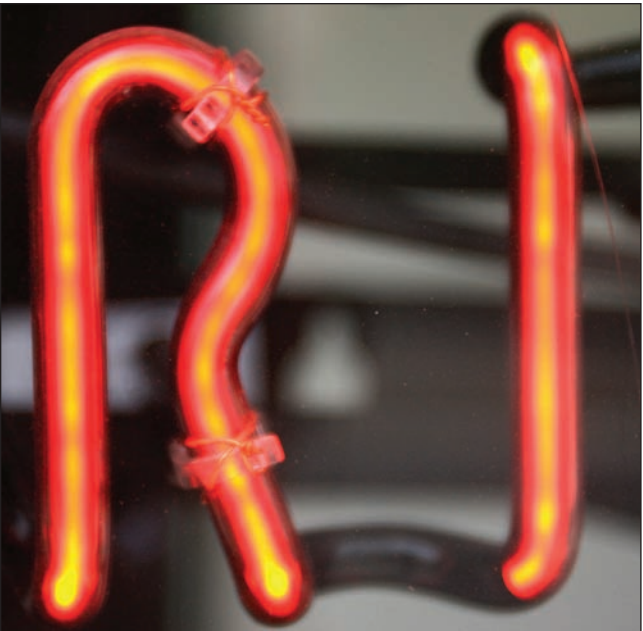


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Denver
spells
Deloria
A VISUAL TRIBUTE



Essay and photos by ADAM SINGS IN THE TIMBER
Native Voice

Walking through Denver, my colleagues and I looked at everything trying to find the right combination of letters that would spell “Vine Deloria Jr.” I wanted it to be my own personal tribute to the man whose books have had a great impact on my life: inspiring me to make a difference, seek the truth, and be proud of where I come from.

I spent my childhood in a community that seemed only to tolerate Native Americans; as a result I felt ashamed of the color of my skin. When I got older, my mother moved us to a big city where I not only discovered acceptance but also Deloria’s famous book “Custer Died for Your Sins.” His book taught me to be proud of my heritage and angered me that another culture could make me ashamed of where I come from.

The photos I chose to make are only parts of larger words, phrases, and objects, but I thought of it as trying to see the small truths among so much chaos in the world. Because of Vine Deloria Jr., I want to seek the truth and tell the truth. I know that he wasn’t a journalist, but in a small way he inspired me to be one.



NAJA Convention celebrates multifaceted man’s life

Native Voice Staff

News organizations and tribes from across the country will gather in Denver this week to celebrate the life and work of the late Standing Rock Sioux author, philosopher, professor and historian Vine Deloria Jr.

“Vine is one of the best professors ever, best writers, best teachers,” said NAJA convention planning committee member Theresa Halsey, Hunkpapa Lakota, of KGMU radio.

The committee of 12 began planning the convention a year ago, and since Deloria made Boulder his home, it was fitting that NAJA pay tribute to him, Halsey said.

Though Deloria wasn’t a journalist by trade, his

work has influenced writers of all types, said Kim Baca, NAJA interim executive director.

Deloria died of complications from an aortic aneurysm Nov. 6, 2005. He was 72.

He penned countless articles and essays and more than 20 books, including “We Talk, You Listen” in 1970, “Behind the Trail of Broken Treaties: An Indian Declaration of Independence” in 1974, and “God Is Red: A Native View of Religion” in 1994.

As many as 175 convention attendees from Bloomberg News, The Associated Press, the Navajo Times, the Kansas City Star and National Public Radio among others have already registered for the 23rd annual convention.

Conference registration is open daily.

SCALPED > Stereotypes concern critics of new comic book

Continued from Page 1

view at Kansas City's Planet Comi-con in Kansas in May.

"It seemed like a natural setting for that type of crime story – when you take a reservation that's that impoverished and introduce a casino into it," he added. "And when you have a corrupt tribal boss, that's just such a rich setting that's ripe with story ideas."

That unique setting, he said, enables him to "work in obvious allusions to the American Indian Movement and the situation on Pine Ridge in the '70s."

The first issue of "Scalped" shows the return of Bad Horse to the reservation after a mysterious 15-year absence. Armed with nunchaku and a "hellbent-for-leather" attitude, Bad Horse takes on a gang of thugs in a bloody knock-down, drag-out fight.

After his eventual defeat, Bad Horse is taken to meet with the tribal leader, Red Crow, who offers him a position on the tribal police force, which sets the stage for following issues.

While many critics admit the overall writing and art of the series are well done, what concerns them most are the stereotypes.

Julia Good Fox, an instructor in the College of Indigenous and American Indian Studies at Haskell Indian Nations University, said she sees stereotypical aspects in the series.

"We can see the motifs occurring still of Wild-West mentality, savagery, and hypersexuality," said Good Fox, who has her students use comic books to analyze representations of Native Americans in popular culture.

"Here you have a setting that's beyond the civilized borders of a town or city," she added. "The reservation's the equivalent of the Wild West and



ADAM SINGS IN THE TIMBER | Native Voice

Roberto Santiago, Lakota, reads the first issue of "Scalped" at the Denver Civic Center on Wednesday.

NATIVE AMERICA IN COLOR

Check out "Scalped" at a comic book store near you. Each monthly issue costs \$2.99.

For more information about "Scalped" author Jason Aaron, visit his blog at

<http://jasoneaaron.blogspot.com/>.

For more information about "Peace Party," visit www.bluecorncomics.com.

lawlessness."

But "Scalped" isn't the only comic available to readers looking for the Native American perspective.

Rob Schmidt, creator and self-publisher of "Peace Party," a multicultural comic book featuring Native Americans, said that his series is on the other end of the spectrum from

"Scalped."

"I realize there's a place for entertaining crime-related comics. I'm not opposed to those in general," Schmidt said in a telephone interview from Culver City, Calif. "But there have been quite a few of them. There's also a need for comics that present more of a realistic and di-

verse view of Native cultures today."

Aaron said he doesn't think his characters are as transparent and negative as Schmidt seems to think they are. His aim, he said, was to create a story in which the good guys aren't always likeable and bad guys are sometimes hard to hate.

"Everything is much more gray in that you don't always know who to identify with in terms of characters and who to root for," he said.

Despite the criticism, Aaron said he has no intentions of changing the intense writing style of free-range profanity and violent themes of crime, drugs and alcohol.



ISHMAEL ALI ELIAS | Native Voice

Jason Aaron, a non-Native American, based the story in the comic book on a fictional reservation.

"I'm writing about things that are inspired by real-life circumstances," Aaron said. "Yeah, you have to be conscious of (stereotypes), but at the same time, you just have to tell your story – respectfully – but still tell your story."

Binderup said that's what makes "Scalped" such a good read: it's entertainment and shouldn't be considered otherwise.

"A comic book is a visual medium," he said. "It's not very interesting to watch people talk about their problems. It's that visual element that makes it good for a comic."

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The (Rock Hill) Herald
The Sacramento Bee
The (San Luis Obispo) Tribune
The (Tacoma) News Tribune
Tri-City Herald
The Wichita Eagle

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ELK > Population plan has few fans

Continued from Page 1

million – that is garnering opposition.

Jack Major, owner of the M&M elk ranch in northern Colorado, is among some local residents who say the park should allow hunters.

“Instead of paying sharpshooters an ungodly amount of money, the park service should make money by auctioning off hunting licenses to highest bidder,” he said. “I guarantee people would pay – heck, I would pay – over \$300 to kill an elk.

“Eighteen million dollars,” he scoffed. “The taxpayers’ money at work.”

Patterson stressed the projected costs would not only be spent hiring the sharpshooters but also on additional fencing for the park and monitoring the elk over the next 20 years.

She dismissed Major’s complaints as irrelevant, citing a 1929 federal statute prohibiting hunting within a national park.

Congressman Mark Udall (D-Colo.) added his fuel to the already fiery debate in February when he proposed legislation that would allow private hunters to cull the park’s elk themselves. In a statement that month, Udall called his bill a common sense solution that “uses the expertise of Colorado hunters and saves taxpayer dollars.”

Animal activists oppose any elk being shot.

Stephanie Boyles, a wildlife biologist with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said \$18 million was a lot to spend killing elk.

She pointed to alternatives like SpayVac, a contraceptive soon to be released on the market, which can be injected into the elk from a distance to prevent them from reproducing.

“I don’t know what the underlying motive is for (Udall’s) legislation – I can’t believe he’s doing this because he has the well-being of the elk in mind,” Boyles said. “I’m certain our organization and others will fight it.”

Because SpayVac is not yet available, it was not considered as an alternative to the culling, Patterson said.

While other fertility control agents were contemplated – as was the possibility of releasing wolves into the park or a more gradual lethal reduction than the one chosen – culling

was still a part of all the depopulation alternatives, she said.

The use of traditional Native American hunters for the culling is also an option, but nothing is official until the final environmental impact statement is released this month, Patterson said.

Tribes would traditionally hunt the elk in a manner that would not leave a blemish on the hide, according to Jocelyn Billy, the reigning Miss Navajo Nation.

Rather than shoot the animal, hunters would chase it down into a corner, Billy said. Then one member of the group would jump onto the animal and suffocate it – usually by putting corn meal in its muzzle.

When the settlers came West, elk and other animals were overhunted, she said.

“People just wanted the hide – that’s why you have Buffalo Bill,” Billy said. “They just skinned them and left the meat there to rot.”

Earlier this week, Denver native Jack Donnelly pulled by the side of the road to watch a half dozen elk swimming in a lake near downtown Estes Park.

As the animals wandered across a street, stopping traffic, Donnelly snapped a few pictures and said, “It just seems there should be a better way to control the elk than shooting them.”

A professor of international relations at the University of Denver, Donnelly said he found it ironic that more than a century after the buffalo and other animals important to Natives were slaughtered, the national park found itself with an overabundance of elk.

According to a draft of an impact statement released in April, the depopulation plan the park chose would have sharpshooters cull 200 to 700 elk a year for the first four years. For the next 16 years, 25 to 160 would be killed annually.

At the end of the 20 years, there would be between 1,200 and 1,700 elk left in the park.

Patterson acknowledged that watching the elk is an integral part of the park experience.

“Watching them in rut as nature takes its course is normally hard to get to – but here, the elk are so accessible,” she said. “People are fascinated by watching the behavior of mating season and the whole drama that unfolds.”

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Works of art, not artifacts, at museum

By **ALLIE HOSTLER**
Native Voice

To an artistic architect, flying over the Rockies invoked visions of a mountainous crystal structure of steel and titanium.

World famous architect Daniel Libeskind watched his visionary crystal come to life when the Denver Art Museum added the Hamilton Building to their already nationally known art museum almost a year ago.

The jagged-edged building in the heart of the Mile High City displays more than 60,000 pieces of art from around the world. The structure is comprised of 2,700 tons of steel, 9,000 titanium panels and 14,500 cubic yards of cement.

"Some pieces were really enhanced by the angles and natural light," said Doug Carpenter, a landscape designer from St. Louis. "You can't find many galleries that use natural light."

Carpenter said he's followed Libeskind's crystal-like designs for the past few years.

The sharp angles divide the \$110 million building into several galleries featuring contemporary and traditional exhibits from



around the world. But the angles end abruptly as they connect to the original museum, the North Building.

Built in the 1970s from a design by another famous architect, Gio Ponti, the North Building is home to the museum's self-proclaimed internationally renowned American Indian collection.

The permanent exhibits feature traditional and contemporary displays from more than 100

American tribes. Many of the items in the collection are from the 1800s by unknown artists.

"We work very closely with the NAGPRA [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act] to be sure that everything is acquired legally," said. Rose Beetem of the museum communications department. "Tribes have even sent delegations out to work with us."

"The Denver Art Museum is the first to col-

IF YOU DECIDE TO GO

The Denver Art Museum is open 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. -10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Saturday, and noon -5 p.m. Sunday. Complimentary tickets are available at the NAJA conference office. Admission for Colorado residents is \$10 per adult; non-residents pay \$13; Colorado students and seniors pay \$8, and out-of-state students and seniors pay \$10. Fees for children range from free to \$5. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at <http://www.denverartmuseum.org>.

The DAM is located on 13th and 14th avenues and is a part of the Civic Center cultural complex between Broadway and Bannock Street in downtown Denver. The nearest light rail stations are at 16th Street or bus connections at the Civic Center.

Among the many works by renowned Native American artists is "The Things I Have to do to Maintain Myself," by Roxanne Swentzell (Santa Clara).

ADAM SINGS IN THE TIMBER | Native Voice

lect Native American art as art instead of artifact," Beetem said.

Arlene and Dave Wiens, tourists from Virginia, said that it seems that Native artists are making a statement.

"You seem to see a lot of reference to the mistreatment of Indians in Denver," Dave Wiens said. "They're telling something that needs to be said."



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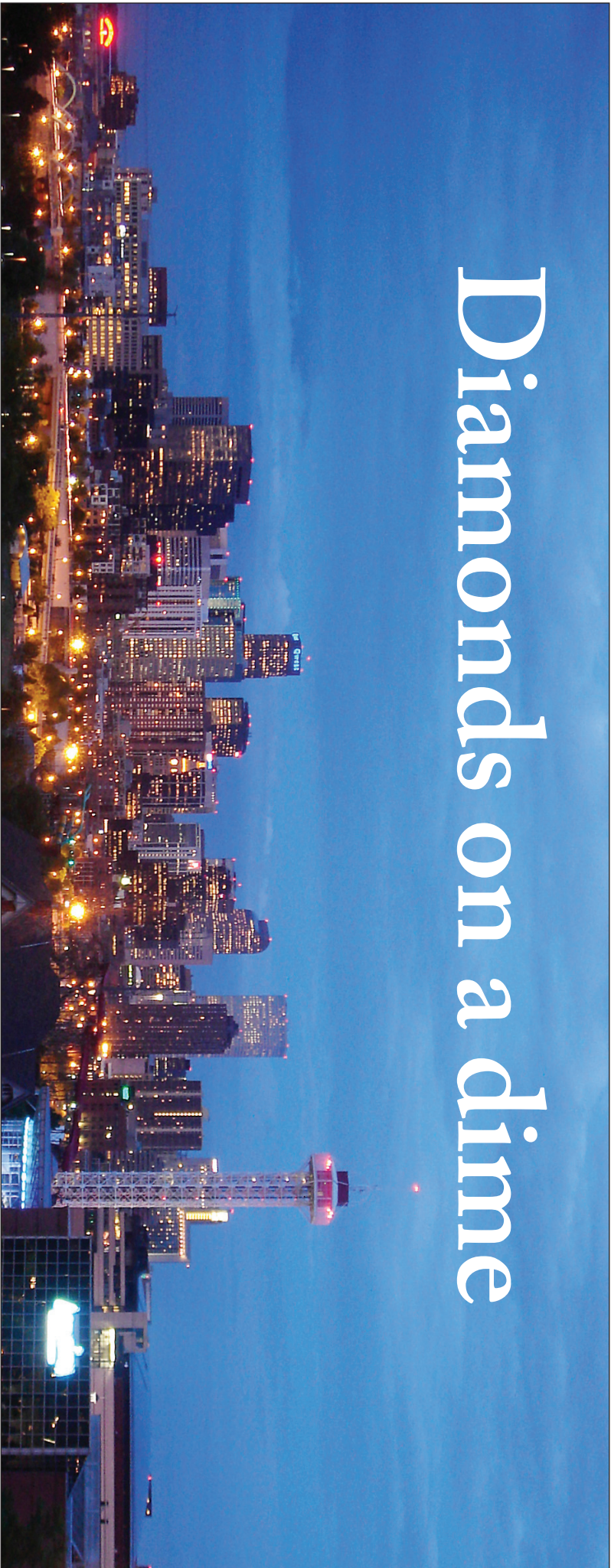
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Diamonds on a dime

Downtown Denver reflects its golden history as a late spring skyline beyond the Central Platte Valley glitters with clear hues of sundown.

PATRICK WILLINK | Native Voice

By ADELE WATTS

Native Voice

A 30-minute light rail ride is all that separates N/AJA conventiongoers from two of Denver's downtown hotspots. Whether you're itching to spend some cash at unique shops or looking for yummy grub, LoDo – Lower Downtown – and the 16th Street Mall offer a good taste of entertainment in the Mile High City.

- The Light Rail train stations run regularly between 5 a.m. and 1 a.m., seven days a week, with the exception of a few holidays. The nearest station is a 10-minute jaunt from the Denver Marriott Tech Center. The Bellevue Station departs four times each hour (:01, :16, :31, :46). Passengers can get to the mall, LoDo and back for just \$5.50.

- Amusement parks, sports centers and art museums can be found in LoDo or the nearby Central Platte Valley. Check out the Pepsi Center for sporting events and musical acts, including The Police June 10; Six Flags Elitch Gardens is the source for roller coasters; and the Denver Center for Performing Arts and the Museum for Contemporary Arts can help anyone Jonesin' for theater.



Photos by ADAM SINGS IN THE TIMBER | Native Voice

For local culture, check out the 16th Street Mall, a 16-block area host to several shops, restaurants and other accommodating features, including parking garages, coffee outlets, chess tables and free wireless Internet. If those boots weren't made for walking, hop on the free Mall Ride, a shuttle that will take you up and down the strip.

MINING DENVER'S SITES AND SOUNDS

DOWNTOWN AQUARIUM, 700 Water St.; (303) 561-4450. A public aquarium of underwater exhibits open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Tickets cost \$13.75.

THE MIZEL MUSEUM, 400 S. Kearney St.; (303) 394-9993, presents the range of the Jewish experience through the arts. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays; noon-4 p.m. Sundays.

COLORADO STATE CAPITOL, 200 E. Colfax Ave.; enter through the Colfax Avenue entrance for the 45-minute free tour. Capitol hours are 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

COLORADO SPORTS HALL OF FAME, 1701 Bryant St. The Colorado Sports Hall of Fame is located at Gate No. 1 on the west side of Invesco Field at Mile High. Hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday-Saturday.

U.S. MINT/DELAWARE NORTH PARK SERVICES, 320 W. Colfax Ave. Free tours cover both the present state of coin manufacturing as well as the history of the Mint. Hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

COORS BREWING COMPANY, 13th and Ford streets, Golden, (303) 277-BEER. A 45-minute free tour. Groups of 20 or more need reservations. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH BREWERY, 2351 Busch Drive, Fort Collins, (970) 490-

4691. Indoor and outdoor tours last an hour. Reservations for groups of 15 or more. Open daily 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

TODAY

> **BOBBY DORAN, CHRIS DANIELS & THE KINGS**, Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery, 1001 16th St., (303) 534-7616. The show begins at 5 p.m.

TRIBAL PATHS, COLORADO HISTORY MUSEUM, 1300 Broadway, (303) 866-3682: Two exhibitions presented by the Colorado Historical Society look at the lives of Colorado's ancient and modern Native Americans. Tickets are \$7 for adults. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

SATURDAY

> **FIESTA AURORA**, Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora. Celebrate Colorado's Latino community with authentic food and live music. The event will run noon-9 p.m. Information: www.auroragov.org

> **A TASTE OF PUERTO RICO FESTIVAL**, 19th Street and Platte River. The festival features music, a boxing exhibition, and vendors, authentic foods. Admission and parking is free and will run 10 a.m.-8 p.m. www.tasteofpuertoricofestival.com.



A new wing of the Denver Art Museum opened in October 2006 and features works of many renowned Native American artists. > Story, Page 10

NATIVE VOICE

Saturday, June 9, 2007

Walking in spiritual balance

NAJA
BY THE NUMBERS

ELECTION RESULTS

Ronnie L. Washines, 36
Cristina L. Azocar, 34
Rhonda Levaldo, 34
* Theresa Halsey, 5
* Ron Walters, 1
* Tim Giago, 1
* Luella Brien, 1

* - Write-in candidates

458 individual members
17 lifetime members
7 lifetime membership pledges

Radio shows
take up effort
to diversify
programmingBy ISHMAEL ALI ELIAS
Native Voice

Two veteran Native American broadcasters have taken up a grass-roots effort to diversify the local airwaves with Native programming.

Two radio shows – Indian Voices and alterNative Voices – are broadcast weekly and provide Native news and interview segments as well as traditional and contemporary Native music.

Z. Susanne Aikman, creator and host of alterNative Voices, said the live show has a volunteer staff of the three and is funded by its volunteers.

RUSSEL A. DANIELS | Native Voice

Members of The Two Spirit Society rehearse Monday at The Center in Denver. Members of the group include, from left, across top: Jay Armajo, Joey Criddle, Matthew Reed, Cristoso Apache; from left, across bottom: Brandon Dinae, Antonio Salazar, and Alistair Bane.

SPECIAL ROLES > Group crosses tribal boundaries, celebrates contributions of “two-spirited” peopleBy TERRIA SMITH
Native Voice

Being two-spirited means not only being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender — it also means having a healing compassion.

Each month a drum draws 20 members to The Two Spirit Society of Denver to sing southern traditional songs at The Center on Broadway.

Although from different nations, including Navajo, Northern Cheyenne and Pueblo, they joke with each other as relatives bound together

by the drum. Some of them are also southern straight-style dancers.

“To me there’s a difference between being a ‘gay Indian’ and being two-spirited,” said Joey Criddle, co-leader of the Denver council.

Criddle, Jicarilla Apache, said in different Native societies two-spirited people have had roles as councilors and healers. The group’s mission is to restore this role.

> See SOCIETY on Page 8

> See RADIO on Page 8

NAJA

quick hits

- Convention registration is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the hotel lobby.
- Job Fair Passport stickers may be collected for a chance to win a raffle. Participants must collect 15 stickers for their passports at the career fair, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The passports can then be submitted for a raffle prizes, including an iPod.
- Diversity practices and examples in changes news industries will be discussed at Saturday's luncheon. Gerald Alcantar, vice president of diversity development of the Fox Entertainment Group, and Christian A. Hendricks, vice president of Interactive Media for McClatchy Co., will speak beginning at noon in Evergreen A and B in the Marriott Denver Tech Center.
- The media awards banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. in Evergreen A and B.

OPINION

Don't let controversy obscure issues even when the opinion is unpopular



TERRIA SMITH

Torres Martinez
Desert Cahuilla,
Humboldt State
University

Whether you agree with him or not, his controversial opinions pique curiosity.

Once one delves into the issues surrounding him, the message becomes clear: Watch what you do with your right to free speech. The magnet of contention is Ward Churchill.

Churchill, professor of ethnic studies at the University of Colorado in Boulder, has landed in the midst of another controversy about his status.

Hank Brown, president of CU, has recommended Churchill be terminated on the grounds of academic misconduct. He was accused of making "falsified and fabricated" statements that the U.S. Army purposefully infested the Mandan Indians in 1837.

Churchill came into national public notice in 2005 after publishing his essay "Some People Push Back: On the Justice of Roosting Chickens."

The essay draws on Malcolm X's famous statement about the Kennedy assassination as being a case "of the chickens coming home to roost." He applied that theory to the World Trade Center attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, saying that U.S. foreign policy brought on an attack of that nature.

In addition to his academic controversies, Churchill's claim to Native American ancestry also has been called into question over the years.

His heritage underwent a thorough examination

using every measure from genealogical investigation to members of his family getting DNA tests. Naja's own Jodi Rave reported an inconsistency she found on Churchill's blood claims.

The questions surrounding his Native ancestry, where his writings may have come from, or if he deserves to be fired are legitimate matters. Nevertheless, what holds as much bearing is the example what could happen when speech is made too freely.

The controversial issues surrounding Churchill are actually matters that aren't unfamiliar. Many of us heard stories about Native people being purposely handed smallpox-infested blankets, just as Churchill describes in one of his essays.

Long before "Some People Push Back," some Americans have felt the U.S. leadership has not been innocent in the matters of global politics.

Churchill, however, is unique in that he has written and vocalized these matters. He's not afraid to shout what others fear they must whisper.

For this, the conservatives have called Churchill a traitor. On March 3, 2005, Bill O'Reilly said that he should be shunned. "Clear-thinking Americans have already rejected Churchill's hatred," he said.

From the viewpoint of one who was raised by a counter-culture historian, an Orwellian danger lies in people who have vast public influence trying to dictate the way people should think.

This type of influence has shaped a society that views celebrity criminals, such as Paris Hilton and Martha Stewart, as heroes, while intellectual war veterans who express their experience and outrage are viewed as villains.

THAT JAILBIRD PARIS HILTON

Celebutante Paris Hilton was ordered Friday to serve her full 45-day jail sentence for driving with a suspended license. Sheriff's officials let Hilton out earlier this week on house arrest after serving only three days in jail.

We asked convention attendees: **Do you think Hilton got what she deserved?**



"I immediately think of the overcrowding in the L.A. County jails - if she wasn't famous she probably would have been let out anyway."

— Mark Trahant, editorial page editor for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer

"She absolutely got what she deserved - if it were me it would be 90 days." — recruiter Keith Robison, deputy features editor with the Kansas City Star

"Welcome, Paris, to the real world - now you got a reason to cry." — Excerpt of poem by Glorianna Cordova, Apache, Naja News 4 reporter

"She should have got more. ... Nobody is above the law." — Jeff Harjo, incoming Naja executive director

Native Voice Staff; Courtroom sketch by Mona Shafer Edwards | The Associated Press

NATIVE VOICE

Volume 10, Issue 1
Denver

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The Associated Press

Linda Shapley
The Denver Post

AIDS center settles into mile-high home

OPENING ALLIANCES > Denver provides group with Native American network

By TERRIA SMITH
Native Voice

After a six months in Denver a well-known Native American AIDS advocacy group is thriving locally as well as reaffirming ITS national presence.

After being located in Oakland, Calif., for the past 20 years, the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center moved in January. The move was prompted by the need to be more visible and have more access to national Native outreach organizations.

Kerry Bird, interim executive director for the prevention center, said THAT in the height of the AIDS epidemic San Francisco, was a logical place to set up shop. But the disease has new spread across Indian Country warranting the new location.

"HIV/AIDS is now found in any state and any community in the country," said Bird, Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota/Lumbee.

He said the organization decided it needed to be more visible to Natives and accessible to Native communities nationally. After looking at cities including Oklahoma City; Portland, Ore.; and Albuquerque, N.M., the organization made the decision to move to Denver in April 2006.

"We considered the national Native organizations here and thought Denver was the best place for us," Bird said. "It was more centrally located and there were a lot of resources here for us to tap into."

Since relocating, Bird said, the organization has been able to resource locally based programs such as the

Native American Rights Fund and the Native American College Fund. The organization now has access to metropolitan programs such as the Denver Indian Family Resource Center and Denver Indian Health and Family Services. Bird said prior to the center's arrival, an HIV/AIDS prevention program did not exist in the area.

"The local community has been very receptive and welcoming," Bird said. "They thought we brought something to the community that was missing. People have been reaching out wanting to create relationships with us."

Since the move, Bird said the organization has access to events that would not have been possible if the center stayed in Oakland. The organization will participate in the National Indian Health Board Conference taking place later this month as well as the National Congress of American Indians that will meet in Denver this November.

REQUESTS FOR HELP

One local community has already reached out for the services of the organization. Bird said the organization was asked by elders from the Southern Ute tribe to help teach them how to deal with the emotional and physical well-being of young tribal members with the disease.

Sage Douglas Eagle Remington, an elder from the Southern Ute tribe and resident of Ignacio, Colo., attended University of California at Berkley at the height of the AIDS crisis of the 1980s in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"During that time there was a group



RUSSEL A. DANIELS | Native Voice

Kerry Bird, LaJuana Lamb, and Robert Foley discuss the move of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center on Monday.

of 12 of us who were good friends; four of them were Indian," Remington said. "Eleven of them have passed because of HIV. I am the only survivor of the group ... I lived in the Bay Area for 25 years. People all around me were dying. My first friend who died was my best friend."

Remington said he has practiced safe sex throughout his life. He said he and his lover of more than 20 years continued to practice safe sex throughout their relationship.

"One day we found out he had AIDS," Remington said. "He only lasted two years. All the times I had practiced safe sex meant something. I was meant to live."

AIDS IMPACT

Native Americans have the third highest HIV/AIDS infection rate of any minority group, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Among the 4.5 million Native Americans in the United States, 3,000 are living with HIV/AIDS, according to a 2007 CDC report based on numbers gathered in 2005.

Native people with HIV/AIDS have the shortest life spans of any racial group. Typically, the report said, Natives don't receive treatment until they are very ill.

"It's just a difficult topic to talk about," said Lisa Tiger, Muscogee Creek, a national AIDS educator who has lived with the disease since 1992. She said issues such as sexual intercourse are uncomfortable to address in certain communities.

Finding treatment options is also difficult for Natives.

"Most smaller and rural communities are dependent on Indian Health Services for their health care," Bird said. "Confidentiality is a big issue. Nepotism is a problem too. You may

be going to see your auntie to ask for personal care. It's easy for people to find out your personal information."

The prevention center assists Native communities in developing HIV/AIDS prevention programs that fit unique needs.

In many Native communities, to even talk about the disease is to invite it, said LaJuana Lamb, regional partners coordinator for the prevention center and Cree/Cherokee.

In urban settings she said Indian health centers run into the same confidentiality problems as rural IHS hospitals.

"We're years behind where certain communities are in having information and being tested," Bird said. "People say, 'It doesn't exist here, so I don't need to know about it.'"

The threat of HIV/AIDS has not yet devastated Native communities, but the potential damage is still a concern. Bird said even a small increase in infected Natives would have a huge impact on the population.

Tiger said that over the years she has seen decline in the fear of HIV/AIDS because drugs are more effective and people aren't seeing the harsh realities of the disease's end stages.

People have almost become too complacent about it, she said. During some of her presentations, younger students said they did not even know what HIV is. This lack of understanding continues to thwart measures for prevention. Tiger said although progress has been made, there is still a long way to go.

"I think it will get better though," Tiger said. "If the organizations keep hanging in there and keep getting the message across."

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MARILYN NELSON | Native Voice

J.D. Colbert pauses while answering questions in his Denver office Tuesday.

Native bank grows, but faces obstacles in serving all tribes

By MARILYN NELSON
Native Voice

A Colorado reservation will soon be home to a new Native American Bank branch, but many key issues are preventing the financial institution from expanding to Native communities nationwide.

"First of all the Native American Bank is Native," said Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Vice Chairperson Betty Howe. "It's very support of Native enterprise and Native business that will benefit the people in Indian Country."

The bank recently bought a charter from the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in southern Colorado, but J.D. Colbert, the first Native CEO and president of the bank, said setting up interstate franchises and reaching possible clients are the most difficult challenges the Denver-based enterprise.

"We go where others fear to tread; most banks don't want to go to the reservation," said Colbert, Chickasaw/Muscogee Creek Cherokee/Potawatomi. "We, however, have a great deal of confidence in Native people in Indian Country. That's because there are thousands of banks and none come close to what we are."

In fact, Colbert's bank has grown considerably: What started as a \$15 million institution in 2001 now has assets worth more than \$82 million, according to the bank's annual report.

Natives hold about 85 percent of the loan portfolios and make up roughly 70 percent of the bank's staff, Colbert said. In addition to the bank's newest Colorado clients, branches exist in Browning and Rocky Boy, Mont.; and Anchorage, Alaska.

Interstate growth, Colbert said, is difficult because of federal banking laws prohibit building

new branches on reservations, but it does not prohibit buying existing banks.

Colbert added that chartering banks is difficult because banks are rarely found on reservations and acquiring one is expensive and time-consuming.

Still, the bank has trudged on.

"Since J.D. has stepped in as president of Native American Bank, the bank has been setting benchmarks and receiving national and state-wide attention," said Ernest House Jr., executive secretary of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs.

"His experience in banking and knowing the story that tribes face in regards to the banking industry is primary, and that has put J.D. at the head of the pack."

The Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs serves as the liaison between the two Ute tribes and the state.

Historically, Natives and banks have not had the closest of relationships, Colbert said, so it is the mission of the NAB to offer banking services to reservations to improve the economic condition and quality of life. The bank works with the Native American Community Development Corp. on financial literacy efforts.

"Rarely are there chances to make history," Colbert said. "When the opportunity arrives, often barriers prevent people from truly making their mark. I am proud to report that NAB has not only crushed such barriers, but we are now setting the bar on how best to meet the pressing financial needs of Indian Country."

A major breakthrough came last December for the NAB when it purchased a bank charter in Colorado to establish more branches in the state, according to the NAB 2006 annual report.

Artist paints to erase stereotypes



RUSSEL A. DANIELS | Native Voice
Bunky Echo-Hawk, 33, stands in front of a recently finished portrait in his home studio in Longmont. The Yakima/Pawnee uses humor and a colorful palette for his pop art to dispell misconceptions about Natives.

By ANNIE GREENBERG
Native Voice

LONGMONT – Bunky Echo-Hawk remembers his father drawing him cartoons on the local newspaper each night.

It was the night his father was away on a business trip when the 4-year-old Bunky whipped out his own set of markers and drew his own cartoon.

Now an established visual artist, Echo-Hawk, 32, is still dabbling in the news biz. The Yakima-Pawnee was the featured artist and master of ceremonies at NAJA's poetry slam Friday.

These days, Echo-Hawk is perhaps best known for his "Weapons of Mass Media" series, which depicts indigenized pop-culture icons, such as Yoda in a headdress and Chief Sitting Bull on "Larry King Live."

Echo-Hawk said he wanted the paintings to use humor to show how Native Americans are misrepresented in the media.

The series was displayed at the Gary Farmer Gallery of Contemporary Art in Farmington, N.M., this spring.

"He was interesting to us – here there was this young guy, painting living icons," said gallery co-owner Deborah Lamal. "We thought it would be important to the Native community at large and definitely worth looking at."

"He works from photographs so it's realism in that sense, but it's not photorealism where every blade of grass is painted," she said. "He does very industrial pop-art, which has a very strong message."

Echo-Hawk began blasting that message in high school, when he ripped school-spirit banners slurring the Native mascots of rival teams.

When he graduated from high school, his father gave him an ultimatum: join the U.S. Army or become a lawyer. "So I went to art school," he said.

Now his home is designed with an artistic eye and a Crayola palette. The living room is alive with color: carrot orange on the top half of the walls and a toxic green on the bottom.

Next to the house is a studio, where a portrait of a traditional Pawnee warrior hangs on the wall.

Echo-Hawk said his father began painting it almost two decades ago, but abruptly stopped in the late 1990s.

"I'm finishing up the details around the face," he said.

Viewers might notice the pierced



RUSSEL A. DANIELS | Native Voice

A pop-art detail from Echo-Hawk's "Wind Over Hanover."

BUNKY ECHO-HAWK

Born: May 20, 1975, in Toppenish, Wash., on the Yakima reservation

Tribal affiliation: Yakima and Pawnee

School: Associate of Art degree in creative writing from the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, N.M.

Family: Married with an 18-month-old daughter.

Where you can see his work: The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, will host an exhibition of Echo-Hawk's pop art in early 2008. He was also featured at the Museum of World Culture in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2004.

ears of the warrior are decorated with the same row of hoops Echo-Hawk wears.

He's even using the same colors his dad first chose.

"When I was younger, my style was more abstract," he said. "But as I got older it shifted. My work became more simplified, more about conveying a message than trying to appear artsy."

No stroll in a park

Homeless band together in Mile High City

Story by TERRIA SMITH | Photos by ADAM SINGS IN THE TIMBER | Native Voice

Behind a Burger King parking lot in downtown Denver stands a place known as “the gazebo.” The gazebo, at the edge of Cherry Creek off of Broadway and Spear, is the home of Charles Alcott.

The 38-year-old Oglala Lakota/Navajo and his circle of friends have claimed the gazebo as their headquarters. They spend their days laughing and talking, referring to each other as comrades.

Alcott jokes about his brother, Darryl, who he said was a member of “NAPA – Native American Panhandler’s Association.”

Among this circle are his girlfriend, Lori Buckman, Oglala Lakota; and his white friend J.D. Shreffler, known as “One Eyed Jack.” Shreffler lost his left eye in the Vietnam War.

Scattered in the area around them, several other homeless Natives are sleeping in the grass and holding up signs to oncoming cars.

“All of us camp together,” Alcott said. “Strength in numbers. That way no one can egg you or rock you. We’re usually six or 10 strong.”

Alcott has lived in the Denver area nearly his whole life. He said he briefly lived on the Pine Ridge Reservation after his mother died when he was 12.

Alcott, homeless for five years, completed one year of school at the University of Colorado, majoring in communications. He said he was also the first head of Denver’s American Indian Movement security in the early 1990s.

Alcott, a sun dancer and pipe carrier, has three children.

Alcott survives by panhandling and selling cardboard signs. The self-proclaimed cardboard technician decorates posters with familiar Native American symbols — such as pipes, medicine wheels and feathers — to catch people’s attention. He uses whatever medium he can find to draw the symbols.

His sign artwork attracts buyers who come back many times.

“I sell my signs all the time,” Alcott said. “The last one sold for \$25. I’ve got one woman who comes through here; she’s got like three pieces of my artwork.”

The Mile High City is home to approximately 6,000 Native Americans from different tribes around the country, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. The group includes an often overlooked population who migrate from the plains, the mountains and desert



Top: Charles Alcott, left, fist pumps JD Shreffler on Thursday in Denver. Right: Alcott looks through his belongings Thursday.



Southwest.

Alcott is one of the 60 people Antoinette Red Woman works with who don’t have homes she said. Red Woman is director and founder of the Red Earth People’s Lodge, a service for the city’s homeless Natives.

Known to many the Indian Mother Theresa, Red Woman was homeless herself for 10 years.

Nearly 5,000 people live on Denver’s streets. Native Americans make up 5 percent of that population, according to Project Homeless Connect, a University of Denver project.

Red Woman said Native people are drawn to Denver because of its central location to reservations from the north and south.

“Originally, it was a big relocation center,” said Red Woman, Northern

Cheyenne.

Since the lodge started, staff have helped 26 people and three families, Red Woman said.

The lodge holds monthly meetings and a weekly talking circle with a traditional meal of soup, fry bread and Indian pudding. Typically, 15 to 30 people attend.

Red Woman said the lodge serves Native people from all nations. Before the lodge was established, services for homeless Natives were almost nonexistent.

“We have helped people get jobs and re-establish themselves,” Red Woman said.

The lodge also helps people with sobriety and cultural identity.

Red Woman said the circle began after the 2002 death of Tom Short, a



Above: Kevin Wright, Oglala Lakota, sits on a street corner Wednesday. At right, a Native American sleeps under a tarp near a busy intersection.

homeless man originally from the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota.

Short, who was disabled, was hit by a car while crossing Colfax. The incident inspired Red Woman to help homeless Natives in Denver.

Shortly after Short’s death, the lodge and the services it provides began taking shape in spring 2006. A year later, the lodge itself is presently homeless.

The lodge is searching for a downtown building where a shelter and office can be located, Red Woman said.

Until the staff finds an office, the lodge works with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless’ South Street Clinic Substance Treatment Center to provide services for homeless Natives.

Red Woman said she knew of eight homeless Natives who lost their lives

this year due to alcohol poisoning, drug overdose, freezing and auto accidents.

“I think a lot of our people suffer from intergenerational trauma. But, they don’t know where to turn,” Red Woman said.

“You really want to know why I’m here? It’s all over alcoholism,” Alcott said.

Alcott lost his brother Darryl in the winter of 2004 when he froze to death on the downtown streets. “I’ve seen a lot of death out here,” Alcott said.

Without a place to go, Alcott, like many other homeless, turn to Red Woman and to the city.

“I left for a while to go to the reservation,” he said. “Then I came back home.”



Lori Buckman looks at her boyfriend Charles Alcott in the gazebo that they call home on Wednesday.



Police officers Corp. Walsh, left, and Sgt. Andrejasich attend to a sleeping man outside a bookstore Monday.

HELPING THE HOMELESS

Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper is working with the Red Earth People’s Lodge to fight homelessness.

Earlier this year Hickenlooper implemented the Road Home, a 10-year program that uses meters in downtown Denver to raise money to build permanent and transitional housing, services education, training and employment, among other things.

So far, the city has raised \$80,000 for the Road Home and also plans to raise money for the lodge.

Darius Smith, Navajo, American Indian liaison to the mayor, is working on a fundraising relay event that is in its early stages.

“I went to a meeting and I was moved by the passion of them wanting their own center,” Smith said.

For more information or to help call Smith in the mayor’s office at (726) 865-9000 or visit the Road Home on the web at www.denversroadhome.com.

RADIO > Shows diversify air with Native fare

Continued from Page 1

She works in public television at KBDI in Denver and sells collectible Hawaiian and Western t-shirts on her Web site, justtrags.com.

Indian Voices, created by Theresa Halsey in 1983, has 250 volunteers and about 6 paid employees. The show, which airs on the community station KGNU, gathers its funding through pledges. She also works as a community coordinator for the Denver Indian Family Resource Center.

The Native Voice sat down with Aikman and Halsey about the volunteer-run Native radio programs and the state of Native radio today.

What is your motivation to do the show every week?

SA: Well, it's certainly not the pay (laughs). The community needs a voice. The volunteers have the talent and the skills and the contacts to make it happen. None of us would be there if we weren't passionate about it.

TH: Diversity. We mainly are for the Native community. But we're also, at the same time, we are educating the (non-Native) public and letting them know that we're still here, that we still exist. So, that's kind of why I keep doing what I do.

Why do you think your show has gained more popularity?

SA: I think because of word of mouth. We have no budget. We do no advertising except the little bit we can talk somebody into giving us for free. And we have one of the oldest and premiere Web sites in Indian Country attached to our program because of volunteers. I think

IF YOU LISTEN

"**alterNative Voices**," with host Z. Susanne Aikman (Eastern Band Cherokee), airs on Sundays from 7 to 8 a.m. on KUVU 89.3 FM, Denver. Live audio streaming is available through KUVU radio's web site, www.kuvo.org. The programs are not archived, but they re-run throughout the week on Native Voice One, www.NV1.org.

Visit **alterNative Voices** on the Web at www.alternativevoices.org.

"**Indian Voices**" host by Theresa Halsey, Hunkpapa Lakota, airs 3-4 p.m. Sundays on KGNU 88.5 FM in Boulder, KGNU 1390 AM in Denver, 89.1 FM in Fort Collins and online at www.kgnu.org Sundays. Each program is archived on the web site.



Visit **Indian Voices** on the web at www.kgnu.org/indianvoices

the Web site helps a lot.

TH: Ever since we came into Denver – because there're a lot of people (in the Denver area) who said they would listen to my program if they could get it and now they can. A lot of Native people. So, I think it's good that we reach up in the mountains too. And we reach as far as Fort Collins and down South, probably Castle Rock.

What do you think about the

state of Native radio today?

SA: Well, for the folks who are making a living at it – wonderful. And I'm sure they could use a whole lot more money too. Overall, I think we haven't moved up the ladder very far over the past 15-20 years. Most of us all know each other and that's how small that community is. It always has been. New volunteers don't come along very easily to keep this show happening. And I'm not going to live forever. People have to make a living and it's hard to just do something because you're so passionate about it. You have to pay the bills somehow too, and that's really a problem that I deal with constantly.

TH: Right now, I think it's getting better. At least they're adding more and more radio stations. So that in itself is really good and we are getting our youth trained in radio. So that's the best part there. The youth are our future.

Where do you get the music for your program?

SA: Well, on our Web site, it tells artists how to send us demos. All of it I beg and borrow. I haven't had to resort to stealing yet, though a lot of people help themselves to my library occasionally. There is a distributor in Denver – Four Winds Trading – who just gives me most of the music we have. Because they sell it, they have the most to give me and, of course, that helps their business if we're playing it on the air. Canyon Records and Soar send me their new releases occasionally.

TH: The record companies actually send us the records. Like Canyon Records, Sound of America Records, Soar. The one's from Can-

ada, I have to actually write people up there to get it. They have really good music.

What type of people do you interview?

SA: Well, first of all, Native people. We want Native people to speak to our listeners in their own voices with their own stories. Lots of non-Native people have contacted us who want to come and talk about Indians. Some of them are insulted and some of them understand. We want Indian people to tell their own stories. Non-Indian folks, you've got ABC and NBC and all those other stations that are non-Indian and always have been. We only have an hour a week to talk about their own stories.

What is your most memorable interview?

SA: Probably the most memorable one – and we love all the people who come and do an interview – the marines brought Sam Tso, one of the Navajo Code talkers to be on our show. And he told his story about being on Iwo Jima, being a Navajo code talker, what happened at home while he was in the service. There was not a dry eye in the place when he finished his story. Every December, we replay a part of that interview for Pearl Harbor Day.

TH: That would be Vine Deloria Jr. when I interviewed him about his book "Red Earth, White Lies," about the Bering Strait theory. His book says that we were here. Through all our stories – they all say we were here on this continent. And he gave me a lot of information.

SOCIETY > Group revels, explores roles among tribes

Continued from Page 1

This effort is clear with their presence in the community.

"They seem to care for the different things that go on," said Grant Davis, a Denver resident who is not gay but attends the meetings because he supports the group. "If there is a need in the Native community, they try to get involved."

Davis began attending meetings two months ago after hearing about them from his wife. The group seems to have a lot of support in the community.

"They go to powwows and sing and dance," said Davis, a member of the Tlinget tribe. "They're a pretty friendly and active group."

Sage Douglas Eagle Remington, a two-spirited elder from the Southern Ute, said, "People didn't look at me wrong because I was two-spirited. They knew I came from a traditional family."

During the meetings, the group discusses who will attend national events and what two-spiritedness means to their families and communities.

After discussion, the group closes with a prayer and shares food. To welcome visitors, the group offers visitors a book of Powwow songs and invites them to join in.

The meetings are the first Monday of every month 6 p.m. at The Center on Broadway.



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"I saw the ugly side of the war."



MARILYN NELSON | Native Voice

Wendell Irving, 62, Oglala Lakota, of Denver, talks about serving in the Army from 1969-70 on Friday. He suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder because of his experiences in the Vietnam War.

Even at home, some vets face fracas for benefits

HELP AVAILABLE >
Agencies offer aid to those who ask

By MARILYN NELSON
Native Voice

The battle rages on for veterans like Wendell Irving, whose nightmares of Vietnam continue almost four decades after his part in the conflict ended.

"I saw the ugly side of the war," said Irving, a 62-year-old Oglala Lakota. Irving left the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota for the military stint he served from 1969 to 1970.

Fifteen years after returning from Vietnam, Irving – at this point an alcoholic and severely depressed – was diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder. It wasn't until 1997 that Irving finally received medication and therapy to deal with the PTSD from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Navigating through veteran's af-

fairs was difficult for Irving, which isn't surprising to Jamie Glenon of Denver County Veteran Services.

"The main issue is that most veterans don't know they qualify for services right after combat, including Vietnam War, World War II, and even the first Gulf War," Glenon said, adding that Denver County is home to more than 49,000 veterans, 500 of which are Native American.

"We encourage all veterans to reach the county and ask for veteran service and inquire about services entitled to them," Glenon said.

After trying three different therapy methods to deal with PTSD, Irving said it was through an outreach group therapy program of the Boulder Veterans Center that he said things are starting to look up.

"They were more local and involved because they were willing to sit down and write my claims verbatim," Irving said. He said he has been sober since 1986. He said the therapy helps him recognize his triggers of anger and depression, which include times when veterans are disrespected, and he is taking

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Fort Logan National Cemetery, 3698 S. Sheridan Blvd. in Denver, will hold a public memorial service today at 11 a.m. for veterans who didn't receive military honors. For more information contact (303) 761-0117.

For more information about Denver County Veterans Services call (720) 944-3801.

antidepressants.

Overall, Irving isn't impressed with how veteran's affairs agencies treat their wards.

"I think Veteran Affairs looked at Vietnam veterans and wanted them gone," he said. "It was better if we died off and many thousands got the message."

"But those who did not take no for an answer are still living, are still here, are still seeking services. But those who gave up either committed suicide or died," Irving said. "We got to do something about it."

Pow Wow Comedy Jam set for debut at NAJA

By **ADELLE WATTS**, Native Voice

After impressing audiences at Gathering of Nations powwow in April, the Trail of Laughs Pow Wow Comedy Jam is making its first appearance at a NAJA convention.

The four Native American stand-up comedians have been performing together for the last year and a half.

"I thought they were hilarious," said Rhonda Joe, an accountant from the Navajo Times.

Joe saw Comedy Jam at Gatherings and said she would give them five "fry breads" out of five.

"Everyone can relate to their jokes," said Donovan Quintero, a freelance photographer who often shoots for the Navajo Times. He's seen them twice.

Kim Baca, NAJA's interim executive director said inviting Comedy Jam to the convention was a no-brainer.

"The entertainment portion is the extra spice of the convention," said Baca, "It's the cherry and whip cream on top, and I wanted to feature something new this year."

Jim Ruel, Ojibwe, describes his act as smarter comedy that pokes fun at his city lifestyle as well as the political issues in the news.

"I think a lot of Natives will laugh and enjoy our jokes at real life," said Ruel.

The troupe, Marc Yaffee, JR Redwater and Vaughn Eaglebear, leave no one spared in their show. Their comedy is inspired by their families, growing up on the reservation, alcoholism and their cultural identities.

Yaffee founded Comedy Jam after working with Ruel. Both men went out and recruited Redwater and Eaglebear.

Ruel said that each comedian has his own act but they all complement each other.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS: (from left to right)

Vaughn Eaglebear:

"I used to believe in reincarnation but that was a long time ago, in my past life."

Jim Ruel:

"My friends took me hunting. They wanted me to be their tracker. I grew up in the city, so I'm really more of stalker."

Marc Yaffee:

"I'm a Mexican Irish Navajo, Mexi-jo. My ancestors exploited my own ancestors. I feel guilty and oppressed."

JR Redwater:

"My brother is now attending one of the top institutions in the country. You may have heard of it, it's called Leavenworth Penitentiary."

UNITY prepares for Windy City convention in '08

UNITY 2008 will be held in Chicago at McCormick Place West from July 23 to 27.

Registration is tentatively scheduled for October, according to Onica Makwakwa, executive director of UNITY. The organization sponsors student projects in print, broadcast and on-line journalism.

NAJA member Karen Lincoln Michel, Madison Bureau Chief at the Green Bay Press-Gazette is UNITY president. NAJA president Mike Kellogg, publisher of the Stillwater NewsPress; NAJA members Michaela Saunders, education reporter at Omaha World-Herald; and Derrick Henry, senior Web producer at the New York Times, serve on the UNITY board of directors.

For more information about UNITY or student projects, visit the Web site at www.unityjournalists.org.

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